

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COMMISSION'S VIEWS ON ROLES OF LONDON AND GENEVA IN
NEW INTERNATIONAL GRAIN ARRANGEMENT

REF: A) STATE 46569 B) EC BRUSSELS 1246 C) LONDON 2394

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MALVE IS NOW MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PRODUCTIVE GRAINS DISCUSSIONS SOON IN LONDON THAN HE WAS IN OUR FIRST CONVERSATION (REF A). HE CONSIDERS THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AGREED IN THE WHEAT COUNCIL DO NOT DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE PREPARATORY GROUP, AND THAT FURTHER WORK IN LONDON DEPENDS ON DECISIONS MADE AT THE MTN IN GENEVA ON THE CONTENT OF ANY GRAINS ACCORD. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 3, THE MISSION REVIEWED WITH MALVE THE COMMISSION'S THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WORK OF THE IWC PREPARATORY GROUP IN REGARD TO FURTHER TALKS ON A NEW INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT.

3. MALVE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WILL ONLY BE PREPARED TO CARRY OUT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON GRAINS ISSUES IN THE LONDON CONTEXT AFTER DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA IN THE MTN HAVE SKETCHED

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OUT (A) THE POSSIBLE CONTENTS OF A GRAINS ARRANGEMENT, AND (B)

THE RELATIONSHIP THAT LONDON NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. MALVE SAYS THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON SOME ASPECTS OF GRAINS IN LONDON ONLY TO BE TOLD SUBSEQUENTLY THAT ADDITIONAL ASPECTS SHOULD BE TREATED IN THE MTN CONTEXT. CONSEQUENTLY IT WOULD FIRST BE NECESSARY TO DECIDE IN GENEVA THE IDENTITY OF ELEMENTS THAT WOULD GO INTO A GRAINS ARRANGEMENT AND THE LOCUS FOR NEGOTIATION OF THE DETAILS OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. THESE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IWA. THE COMMISSION WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS MANY ASPECTS, INCLUDING "ACCESS," BUT WANTS ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A GRAINS ARRANGEMENT TACKLED AT ONCE.

4. WE ASKED MALVE HOW TO RECONCILE THIS INTERPRETATION WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND THE RELATIVELY EARLY MEETING DATE (WEEK OF MARCH 17) SUGGESTED BY PAROTTE FOR THE PREPARATORY GROUP AT LONDON (REF C). MALVE MORE OR LESS REPUDIATED THE COMMISSION'S AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE IN REF C AND SAID THE COMMISSION'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL FEBRUARY 13-14, JOHN EATON, A DIVISION CHIEF UNDER MALVE, WAS REMISS IN AGREEING TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE. IN MALVE'S VIEW, THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE LONDON DISCUSSIONS, FEBRUARY 8 AND 10-11, I.E. THE EXPORTERS' GROUP AND THE AD HOC MEETING AT WHICH MALVE WAS PRESENT, HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS. HOWEVER, MALVE SAYS THAT AT THAT TIME HE WARNED THAT THE COMMUNITY NOT BE PUSHED TOO FAST. HE SAYS THAT THE COMMISSION WILL FOLLOW THE INTERPRETATION THAT THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE VALID ONLY AFTER THE MTN HAS MADE CERTAIN BASIC DECISIONS. IF THE COMMUNITY IS PRESSED BY OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE PREPARATORY GROUP IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE COMMUNITY WILL EITHER (A) NOT ATTEND, (B) ATTEND AND REMAIN MUTE, OR (C) MAKE VERY LITTLE CONTRIBUTION .

5. WE WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT IF WE LEARN THAT ANY OFFICIAL COMPETENT IN THIS FIELD PLANS TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY. MALVE DOES NOT.

6. COMMENT: THOUGH MALVE WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO EXPLAIN TO US THE CONSISTENCY OF HIS VIEWS NOW, HIS VIEWS AT LONDON, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HIS VIEWS AT HIS TALK WITH OUS ON FEBRUARY 12, OUR GUESS IS THAT HIS SUPERIORS RAPPED HIS KNUCKLES FOR HAVING GONE TOO FAR AND HAVE PULLED HIM BACK FROM THE POSITIONS HE WAS WILLING TO PUSH EARLY IN FEBRUARY. THE LINK WITH THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS NOW ASSUMES MUCH MORE IMPORTANCE THAN IN OUR FIRST CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

7. WHILE THE VIEWS OF MALVE AND THE AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE

GENERAL WILL PROBABLY BE CONTROLLING, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DG
WELLENSTEIN SEEMED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THE ISSUE OF VENUE
IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION ON MARCH 4 WITH AMBASSADOR GREENWALD
AND PREEG, DIRECTOR EUR/RPE. AT THE SAME TIME, WELLENSTEIN TOOK
A FIRM LINE THAT THE US COULD NOT JUST TALK ABOUT SHARING THE
COST OF RESERVES WITHOUT TAKING THE NEXT STEP AND AGREEING
ON THE RULES (PRESUMABLY RELATED TO PRICE) FOR STOCKING AND
DESTOCKING.
GREENWALD

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